

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING  
WVSFMO • Charleston, WV •

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The official business meeting was called to order at 09:03AM by Chairman Grant Gunnoe.

ROLL CALL: by Administrative Secretary Kathryn Burns

Commissioners Present

Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, Dave Camp, Doug Estep, Martin Hess, Doug Mongold, Phil Hart, Jim Oldaker, Thomas Keefer, Ted Shriver and Virgil White.

Commissioners Absent- None

Special Recognition

Marshal Tyree recognized 4 members of the Dunbar Fire Department - Captain Bowers, Lt. Carney, Deputy Chief Burger and Fire Fighter Brunetti and 2 members of the Belle VFD – Fire Fighter Bolen and FF James Sizemore for a job well done.

Special Guest Speaker

Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Sandy addressed the Fire Commission concerning possible legislative changes effecting the Fire Commission and Fire Marshal duties.

Counsel Nowicki also addressed the Commission on the same legislation.

Cabinet Secretary Sandy addressed the Commission on other proposed legislation important to the Commission and gave a brief overview of some accomplishments, areas of concern and goals for DMAPS.

Commissioner Grant expressed gratitude for Cabinet Secretary Sandy's information and support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

*Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Fire Commission Meeting and the December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Special Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hess. With the ayes and nays have been taken on a voice vote; the motion passed.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

• Disciplinary Committee

Commissioner Eastham read the Disciplinary Committee Report from December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as follows

## Disciplinary Committee Meeting Report

### Meeting Minutes

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### Call to order

Commissioner Eastham called to order the regular meeting of the Disciplinary Committee Meeting at 10:00AM on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at WV State Fire Marshal's Office.

#### Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

Carl Eastham  
Doug Mongold  
Edward George  
Martin Hess  
Ted Shriver

The following commissioners were absent: None

#### Unfinished business

##### **1. Consideration of WV Division of Labor Complaint (FDC FY20-08) West Side Volunteer Fire Dept.**

Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott gave a report on the Complaint.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to table item until the April Fire Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner George.

Administrative Note: At this time, it was noted that ASFM Scott had reported on another item in error and then read the correct report.

After the corrected report Commissioner Mongold made a motion to withdraw his motion, and Commissioner George agreed to withdraw his second, without objection the motion was rescinded.

Commissioner Mongold reported on ongoing corrective actions with West Side Fire Department.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to table item until the Full Fire Commission Meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, seconded by George. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

#### New business

##### **1. Consideration of Underage Juvenile Present at Emergency Operation Scene (FDC FY20-018)**

ASFM Scott gave a report on the status of the complaint.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to table item until the April Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

**2. Consideration of Capon Valley VFD requesting an extension (past 180 days) to correct deficiencies – Hose Testing.**

ASFM Scott explained that the Hose testing will be done as soon as the weather allows it.

Commissioner Mongold suggested his department could work with them and possibly schedule it together.

Commissioner Hess made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve extension until the April meeting, seconded by Commissioner Shriver. Commissioner Mongold requested ASMF Scott contact the testing company and explain the timing needs. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Hess moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15AM, seconded by Commissioner Shriver, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

*Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Commissioner Hess. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

**• Legislative, Codes & Regulatory Committee**

Commissioner Shriver read the Legislative, Codes & Regulatory Committee Report from February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as follows:

Legislative, Codes and Regulatory Committee Meeting Report

**Meeting Minutes**

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Call to order**

Commissioner Shriver called to order the regular meeting of the Legislative, Codes and Regulatory Committee Meeting at 10:16AM February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the WV State Fire Marshal's Office.

**Roll call**

Commissioner Shriver conducted roll call.

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker  
Tom Keefer  
Edward George  
Ted Shriver  
Mark Stroop

The following commissioners were absent: None

**Unfinished Business-**

- 1. Consideration of Appeal Request for Rockhaven Bed & Breakfast, Harper's Ferry, WV after 3year allowance to provide a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor fire escape. (Lynne & Christian Pechuekonis).**

Marshal Tyree addressed the Commission and explained the status of proposed language changes that

Commission Counsel is working on and that due to the status of that legislation we can't move forward at this time.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to table the item until the April Fire Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

## **New business**

### **1. Consideration of George Ramsey (City of Milton) as a Provisional Commercial Building Inspector.**

Deputy Sharp gave a report on the application submission.

Commission George made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission the approval of George Ramsey as a Provisional Commercial Building Inspector, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

### **2. Consideration of Jonathan Starkey, (Town of Hundred) as a Provisional Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector.**

Deputy Sharp gave a report on the application submission.

Commissioner George made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission the approval Jonathan Starkey as a Provisional Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

## **Other items**

Commissioner George gave a summary report of pending legislation that would allow full time fire departments to be designated "safe surrender" sites for infants.

## **Adjournment**

Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30AM, second by Commissioner Keefer. with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

*Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

## **• Fire Department Services Committee**

Commissioner Mongold read the Fire Department Service committee report from December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as follows:

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

**Meeting Minutes**

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **Call to Order**

Commissioner Mongold called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:43AM on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the WV State Fire Marshal's Office.

## **Roll Call**

Commissioner Mongold conducted a roll call. The following commissioners were present:

Dave Camp  
Doug Mongold  
Jim Oldaker  
Phil Hart  
Mark Stroop

The following commissioners were absent: None

## **Unfinished Business-**

None

## **New Business**

### **1. Fire Officer I and II Applications**

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- James Wilson FO2, Huntington FD

Commissioner Stroop made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve James Wilson's FO2 application, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

### **2. Fire Departments to be Recertified:**

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented a list of departments that met requirements to be recertified:

- a. Hamlin VFD
- b. Canaan Valley VFD
- c. Bayard VFD
- d. Clearview VFD
- e. Mt. Olivet VFD
- f. Sherrard VFD
- g. McMechen VFD
- h. Fork Ridge VFD
- i. Berkeley Spring VFD
- j. Dunbar Community VFD
- k. North Fork VFD
- l. Davis VFD

Commissioner Stroop made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, with the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

### **3. Fire Departments with perfect evaluations to be Recertified**

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented a list of departments for recertification that had perfect evaluations:

- a. Eleanor VFD
- b. Winfield VFD
- c. Van VFD
- d. Bancroft VFD

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to approve these applications, seconded by Commissioner Stroop. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

### **4. Report on Fire Departments Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance:**

Assistant Fire Marshal Bradley Scott gave a report on fire departments receiving 180 day to achieve compliance as follows:

- a. Spruce River VFD
- b. Madison VFD
- c. Route 34 VFD
- d. Antawalt VFD
- e. Gary VFD
- f. Welch VFD

No action needed.

### **5. Consideration of West Side VFD Sub Station Request**

No one from West Side was in attendance.

Commissioner Camp made a motion to refer over to tomorrow's Full Fire Commission Meeting West Side's VFD Sub Station Request, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

### **6. Consideration of Berkeley County Local Fire Prevention Unit FDID# Request.**

**Andrew P. Blake, Esq., Deputy Legal Director, Berkeley County Council.**

Attorney Andrew P Blake the Deputy Legal Director from Berkeley County Council addressed the Commission concerning three requests of the Council. 1) Validation that Berkeley Fire is a recognized Fire Department. 2) Assignment of dual response area to include the entire county (excluding Martinsburg). 3) The assignment of a FDID number. He also addressed an additional issue concerning Memorandums of Understanding between Berkeley Fire Prevention Unit and Berkeley VFDs.

No action taken.

**7. Consideration of Berkeley County Fire Association Chairman Paul D. Burroughs Jr. Request.**

Mr. Burroughs addressed the Commission stating the concerns regarding the Memorandum of Understanding issue between the Berkeley County Fire Association, local VFDs and the Berkeley County Fire Unit (Berkeley County Council).

No action taken.

**8. Consideration of Bedington Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief David W. Brining Request.**

Chief Brining addressed the Commission stating the areas of concern regarding the Memorandum of Understanding issue between Bedington VFD and Berkeley County Fire Unit (Berkeley County Council).

Mr. Mike Nichols, Deputy Chief of Hedgesville addressed the Commission stating the areas of concerns regarding the Memorandum of Understanding issue between Hedgesville VFD and the Berkeley County Fire Unit (Berkeley County Council).

No action taken.

Commissioner Gunnoe thanked all of those in attendance for their comments and information.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Stroop moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

*Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Commissioner Estep. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

**• Training Committee**

Commissioner White read the Training Committee Report from February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as follows:

Training Committee Meeting Report

**Meeting Minutes**

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Call to order**

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 1:37PM on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the WV State Fire Marshal's Office.

### **Roll call**

Commissioner White conducted a roll call. The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White  
Jim Oldaker  
Doug Estep  
Edward George

The following commissioners were absent: Commissioner Keefer

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **1. Consideration of Fire Service Training Curriculum Update Approvals.**

Commissioner George made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the WV FSE Training Curriculum updates, seconded by Commissioner Estep, with the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

### **New business**

#### **1. Staff/Counsel**

Marshal Tyree updated those in attendance that the 1001 Fire Fighter recertification and continuing education legislation has been amended. He wanted to make mention since there was a concern that this body may need submit public comments and or letter to technical committee regarding that.

#### **2. WVU Fire Service Extension**

WVU Fire Service Extension Director Mark Lambert discussed the upcoming Pro-Board dates. He noted they are continuing to work with Public Service Training. They are also looking into some Learning Management software.

Commission Estep discussed an issue concerning the delay on receiving certification when Module 1 is completed.

Marshal Tyree noted that going forward stickers can be sent when they are registered and then when the training provider issues the certificate, they can give a sticker at the same time.

#### **3. WV Public Service Training/WV Dept. of Education**

PST Coordinator Dave Plume addressed the Commission concerning an adjustment to their skill sheet and inquired if they would need to submit that for approval.

Commissioner White recommended that they do submit that to the Commission since there are some changes.

Mr. Plume asked the Commission what certificate should be printed for the Managing a VFD.

Commissioner White stated it should be Fire Commission Certificate.

Deputy Sharp noted a policy may need to be written. He will research it.

Mr. Plume made the Commission aware of some transitional issues as they go to the new 1006 standard.

PST Coordinator Robbie Bailey stated that they are in the final planning stages of the ESCAPE Conference and welcomed the Commissioners to attend.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:00PM, seconded by Commissioner Estep, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

*Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

### **• Operations Committee**

Fire Marshal Tyree stated that his staff will present their division reports: Chief Deputy Robert Sharp, Field Deputy Fire Marshal Jason Baltic and Field Deputy Fire Marshal David Blaylock and that he will finish with the overall agency operations report.

Chief Deputy Robert Sharp gave a report on the Public Education efforts for the period of December 2019 to February 2020

Media Releases – 3

- W.Va. State Fire Marshals arrest Hardy County couple charged in arson investigation
- W.Va. Fire Marshals identify juvenile suspects in Berkeley Arson
- State Fire Marshal presents awards to first responders

Social Media interactions –234 new Facebook subscribers since Dec. 5th, weekly safety messages and news updates are disseminated through Facebook and Twitter. We total 10,696 subscribers.

Top engagement post: The West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office today announced the arrest of a Hardy County husband and wife, stemming from a storage facility fire that occurred in December.

12,259 people reached

4,616 post clicks

Public Education Network –0 new members since Dec, 128 total members since April 2016.

Public interactions completed – 5

- Charleston Christmas Parade
- Town Gown Smoke Alarm Installation with Saint Albans FD
- Right from the Start Caregiver Safety Presentation
- Life Save Recognition Ceremony in Wood County
- Assistant with Line of Duty Death in Roane County

Ongoing Projects:

**History Project:** 110th anniversary of the founding of the WV Fire Marshal's Office was celebrated in 2019 and as a part of this celebration, research was done to include photos and bios of Fire Marshals' past. An anniversary

edition booklet of the WVSFMO was created and has been completed. The booklet will be sent to a publisher to be bound and printed. Copies will be made available in the year 2020.

**52 Week Fire Prevention Guide** – Fire departments and residents in West Virginia have access to a fire safety planning guide that covers seasonal topics. The guide is created with a weekly and monthly topic that includes safety topics, historic fire information and important practices to keep in mind. The guide will be made available on the WV State Fire Marshal’s Office Website.

**Sissonville Fire School** – The Public Education Department has been invited to participate in a fire school in Kanawha County in March. Marketing Fire Prevention in your Community is an 8-hour course that is being developed. Students will learn what to do when budgets get tighter, personnel is decreasing and risks are doubling. The program will teach students how fire prevention and education in fire departments can continue to thrive while engaging residents and communities.

This multilayered approach will touch on educational messaging, social media, public interactions and how all works together in creating a Community Risk Reduction plan for the state of West Virginia

No questions

Chief Deputy Robert Sharp gave the report on the Inspections Division for the period of November 01, 2019 to December 31-2019.

<b>License Checks</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
Electrician	140	107
Fire Protection Worker	53	37
Low Voltage	11	12
Pyrotechnician	6	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>158</b>
Warnings	5	0
Citations	10	4
Criminal Complaints	7	3
Execute Arrest Warrants	5	2

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS** \*\*Operations were conducted on November 12, 2019 at the Beni Kedem Temple in Charleston, WV. During an electrical exam given by the WVSFMO, 4 felony arrest warrants were executed for individuals that were taking the exam. These warrants were for Forgery of a Public Record which resulted from these individuals providing false information to inflate their work experience requirements on their applications.

**The WVSFMO was assisted by the following agencies in this operation:**

WV Division of Corrections & Rehabilitation – Criminal Investigation Division

Charleston Police Department

WV State Police

U.S. Department of Homeland Security – ICE-ERO  
WV Intelligence Fusion Center  
WV ABCA  
City of Charleston Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
US Postal Inspectors  
Federal Bureau of Prisons – FCI Alderson and FCI Beckley  
WV Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
FBI - JTTF  
WV Secretary of State’s Office – Investigations  
WV Office of the Attorney General – Investigations  
City of Charleston Fire/EMS

**PLANS REVIEWED 130**

(does not include walk-in consultations with architects and designers)

**TRAINING RECEIVED**

7 Marshals attended Low Light Firearms Qualifications at Barboursville – 1 day  
5 Marshals attended Low Light Firearms Qualifications at Huttonsville – 1 day  
1 Marshal attended Auditors WEB training for travel – 2 hrs  
1 Marshal attended Suppression Free Search Warrant training – 8 hrs  
1 Marshal attended Active Attacker Training – 6 hrs

**TRAINING GIVEN**

1 Marshal provided training at Huttonsville Correctional Center Range – 5 hrs  
1 Marshal provided training for Forensic School class at local High School – 3 hrs  
1 Marshal provided training to Raleigh County Health Department – 5 ½ hour

There were no questions regarding the report.

Deputy State Fire Marshal David Blaylock shared his report on the Services Division for the period of November 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020.

November 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020

	NOV	DEC	JAN	THREE MONTH TOTAL
Total Licenses Issued:	270	256	294	820
Total Certifications Issued:	14	26	31	71
Total Permits Issued:	25	85	22	132
Total Applications Processed:	166	132	278	576
Online Renewals:	61	56	67	184
Total Consumer Fireworks Certificates Issued				
Permanent:	0	0	0	0
Temporary:	0	0	0	0
Wholesaler:	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Storage:	0	0	0	0
Novelties:	0	0	578	578

**Regulatory & Licensing Status Report  
January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019**

1 Electrician Licenses issued:	16,136 (5,303 online; 8,728 Lockbox; 2,105 office)
2 Temporary Electrician Licenses issued:	118
3 Pyrotechnician Licenses issued:	682
4 Blaster Licenses issued:	940
5 Fire Protection Licenses issued:	658
6 Building Code Official Certifications issued:	64
7 Home Inspector Certifications issued:	212
8 Electrical Inspector Certifications issued:	57
9 Fireworks Display Permits issued:	309
10 Explosive Magazine Permits issued:	658

11 Explosive Magazine Applications reviewed:	128
12 Exam Applications processed:	2,695
13 Number of Applications Returned:	534
14 Number of tests graded:	2,204
15 Letters of Good Standing issued:	176
16 Miscellaneous:	56

**Summary:**

Total Licenses Issued: 18,534

Total Certifications Issued: 333

Total Permits Issued: 967

Total Applications Processed: 2,695

**Consumer Fireworks**

Permanent:	52
Temporary:	228
Wholesaler:	20
Outdoor Storage:	182
Novelties	737

**Summary:**

Total Certificates Issued: 1,219

Deputy State Fire Marshal Baltic shared his report on the Investigation Division for the period of December 01, 2019 to January 31, 2020.

Total Number of Fires – 106

Accidental – 16

Incendiary – 23

Undetermined – 65

Fatality Total – 4

Injury Total – 10

Total \$ loss - \$10,355,850.00

Agriculture – \$200.00

Assembly – \$1,500,000.00

Mercantile - \$3,650,800.00

Multi-Use Property – \$500.00

Other Structures - \$2,200,000.00

Outside / Special Properties - \$1,000.00

Religious – \$350,000.00

Residential - \$2,398,500.00

Storage - \$201,350.00

Vehicles -\$51,000.00

Unknown – \$2,500.00

Total \$ loss that are declared Incendiary - \$760,450

Total number of fires cleared by arrest or exceptional means – 4

January 01, 2020 to January 31, 2020

Total Number of Fires – 36

Accidental – 10

Incendiary – 7

Undetermined – 18

Fatality Total – 2

Injury Total – 2

Total \$ loss - \$2,762,400.00

Other Structures - \$1,500,000.00

Outside / Special Properties - \$1,000.00

Religious – \$350,000.00

Residential - \$873,900.00

Storage - \$35,000.00

Total \$ loss that are declared Incendiary - \$278,100.00

Total number of fires cleared by arrest or exceptional means – 3

Commissioner Gunnoe commended Deputy Baltic on his and his staffs work with no questions.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICES								
RECENT ACTIVITY								
2019								
	NOV 2019	DEC 2019	JAN 2020	TOTAL	2020 YTD	FY2020	CY2019	FY2019
<b>FIRE DEPT EVALUATIONS</b>	7	1	10	18	10	58	103	101
DEPTS RECERTIFIED	0	17	0	17	0	51	98	96
DISCIPLINARY	0	1	0	1	0	31	58	61
180 DAYS	0	23	0	23	0	49	74	49
<b>EMERGENCY VEHICLE PERMITS</b>								
TOTAL PROCESSED	73	38	65	176	65	283	496	509
APPARATUS	15	14	16	45	16	69	139	138
PRIVATE	58	24	49	131	49	214	357	371
DEACTIVATED	50	59	88	197	88	372	688	684
APPARATUS	10	5	22	37	22	98	181	155
PRIVATE	40	54	66	160	66	274	507	529
VERIFIED AND REFUSED	33	10	13	56	13	106	189	148
APPARATUS	3	1	1	5	1	18	32	33
PRIVATE	30	9	12	51	12	88	157	115
<b>NFIRS</b>	NOV	DEC	JAN					
TOTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED	9,572	7,544	2,206	19,322	2,206	65,054	135,511	141,205
90 DAY GRACE	0	0	75	75	75	198	239	231
OUT OF GRACE	13	6	50	69	50	170	227	220
FUNDING LOSS	0	3	0	3	0	3	12	11
NFIRS CLASSES TAUGHT	0	3	0	3	0	3	4	3
COUNTIES REPRESENTED IN NFIRS	0	10	0	10	0	10	12	4
NUMBER OF NFIRS STUDENTS	0	51	0	51	0	51	54	7
SLACK.COM WORKSPACE MEMBERS	8	6	29	43	29	116	140	
COUNTIES REPRESENTED IN SLACK	8	5	18	16	18	44	43	
NUMBER OF FDS REPRESENTED	8	6	24	38	24	109	131	
<b>FIRE OFFICERS</b>	NOV	DEC	JAN					
TOTAL SUBMITTED	0	0	1	1	1	9	21	40
FIRE OFFICER 1	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	17
FIRE OFFICER 2	0	0	1	1	1	6	11	23
<b>FOIA REQUESTS</b>								
REQUESTS RECEIVED	12	14	15	41	15	74	142	154
REPORTS PROCESSED	12	27	34	73	34	269	422	352
REPORTS RESEARCHED	12	28	34	74	34	484	719	512
<b>LOST FUNDING 12/31/19</b>								
CITIZENS FIRE CO.; JEFFERSON; 19102	\$12,589.96							
FAIRLEA VFD; GREENBRIER; 13145	\$12,589.96							
PAW PAW VFC, INC.; MORGAN; 33103	\$12,589.96							
	\$37,769.88							

**February 7, 2020**  
**Fire Marshal's Report to Operation's Committee**

Divisional Reports with Description of Division's Responsibilities

Public Education Section - Bob Sharp

Fire Investigations- Jason Baltic

Fire Department Services- David Blaylock

Fire Inspections and Plans – Bob Sharp

Agency Report– Marshal Tyree

**Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission:**

• **Personnel Staffing:**

- **New Employee:** Dave Blaylock, Field Deputy, Services Division; Shawn Alderman, ASFM 2, Investigation Division
  - **Promotions/Reallocations:** Bess Burns, ASA 1, Services Div.
  - **Resignation/Termination/Retirement:** Courtney Rosemond, PIS, Admin
- We have **8 vacancies** within the agency: **Five (5)** ASFM in Training for **Inspection Div. one (1)** Public Information Specialists; **One (1)** Office Assistant 3, Admin Div., and **One (1)** Regulatory Licensing Spec. 2, **Services** Division.

• **Legislative update:**

• **Bills that are currently in process as of Feb. 4th**

- HB 4644      SB 683      Fire Marshal & Fire Commission separation of duties; Bed & Breakfast language edits
- HB 4528      SB 115      One Percent Insurance Surcharge
- HB 4409           Transfer of Excess Workers Comp Fund to Fire Equipment & Training Fund
- HB 2208, 4558, 2403      Income Tax Credit for VFD members
- HB 4030      SB 493      Raising Age of Paid FF in Municipalities
- HB 4134      SB 305      Recognition & Reduction of W/C Premium for members in Admin functions
- HB 4275           State Fire and Bldg Code Rules bundle
- SB 494      Option to join Municipal Fire & Police Retirement
- HB 4358, 4679      Relating to Licensing of Electricians

- **Fire Department Loss of Funding: Citizens (Jefferson); Fairlea (Greenbrier); Paw Paw (Morgan)**
- (The two deadlines involved are the quarter deadline and then 90 days later, the grace period deadline. Other than being decertified, not submitting their NFIRS incident reports by the prescribed due date is the only way to lose their funding. It has nothing to do with the 180-day issue. Once they miss the grace period deadline, the money is lost and reallocated to the departments that were complying. There is no getting it back after hat.) Share info rec. letters from Treasury; we'll be making an inquiry to see if there are earlier notification/communications that can be provided to help and assist departments to prevent the loss of their distributions.
  
- **Grant Funding – HB 4409** if passed will provide approx. \$2 million Fire Equip. and Training Fund; administered by our agency.
  - .
- **Two Significant Pursuits**
  - Filling of Sworn Positions – **Next week Interviews for Inspection Division vacancies**
  - Advanced Research for Software and Technology infrastructure to enhance efficiencies within the Inspection Division; Fire Dept. Services Section, and Licensing and Certification Division
    - Goal: Begin launch at beginning FY 2021 with full implementation by October 2020.
    - 2020 WV Public Safety Expo: SFMO Class Offerings
- **Visits and Meetings**
  - Recognition of Commission & Staff participation in Clover VFD LODD; FF Mark Horwich  
Fire Chief Jason Conrad made personal visit to thank Marshal Tyree for all that was done to assist the department and family in their time of need.
- **Commendations:**
  - Courtney Rosemond for her great work representing the agency; working with Fire Depts. and community organizations; she'll be missed.
    - Card for Commissioners to sign

No questions.

*Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner White. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

#### **Unfinished Business**

- 1) Consideration of Fire Service Training Curriculum Update Approvals.

*Commissioner White made a motion to approve the WV FSE Training Curriculum updates, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed*

- 2) Consideration of WV Division of Labor Complaint (FDC FY20-008) West Side

*Commissioner Mongold made a motion to table until the April Commission meeting seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

- 3) Consideration of Appeal Request for Rockhaven Bed & Breakfast, Harper's Ferry, WV after 3 year allowance to provide a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor fire escape. (Lynne & Christian Pechuekonis).

*Commissioner Shriver made a motion to table until the April Fire Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays haven been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

## **New Business**

- 1) Report on Fire Depts Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance: Spruce River VFD; Madison VFD; Route 34 VFD; Antawalt VFD; Gary VFD and Welch VFD.

No Action needed.

- 2) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments: Hamlin VFD; Canaan Valley VFD; Bayard VFD; Clearview VFD; Mt. Olivet VFD; Sherrard VFD; McMechen VFD; Fork Ridge VFD; Berkeley Spring VFD; Dunbar Community VFD, North Fork VFD and Davis VFD.

*Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recertify Hamlin VFD; Canaan Valley VFD; Bayard VFD; Clearview VFD; Mt. Olivet VFD; Sherrard VFD; McMechen VFD; Fork Ridge VFD; Berkeley Spring VFD; Dunbar Community VFD, North Fork VFD and Davis VFD, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

- 3) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments: Eleanor VFD; Winfield VFD; Van VFD and Bancroft VFD.

*Commissioner Eastham made a motion to recertify those department receiving perfect evaluations, Eleanor VFD; Winfield VFD; Van VFD and Bancroft VFD, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

- 4) Consideration of Fire Officer 1 & 2 Applications: James Wilson FO2- Huntington FD.

*Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve James Wilson FO2 application, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

- 5) Consideration of George Ramsey, City of Milton- Provisional Commercial Building Inspector

*Commissioner Shriver made a motion to approve George Ramsey as a Provisional Commercial Building Inspector, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.*

- 6) Consideration of Jonathan Starkey, Town of Hundred- Provisional Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector.

*Commissioner Shrive made a motion to approve Jonathan Starkey as of Provisional Property*

*Maintenance and Housing Inspector, seconded by Commissioner Hess. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.*

- 7) Consideration of Underage Juvenile Present at Emergency Operation Scene (FDC FY20-018)

*Commissioner Mongold made a motion to table until the April Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hess, With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

- 8) Consideration of West Side VFD Sub Station Request.

Commissioner Mongold addressed the commission concerning the meeting he held regarding the request.

*Commissioner White made a motion to deny as all required information has not been received, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.*

- 9) Consideration of Capon Valley VFD requesting an extension (past 180 days) to correct deficiencies- Hose Testing.

*Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve extension until the April meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

- 10) Consideration of Berkeley County Local Fire Prevention Unit FDID# Request.

- 11) Consideration of Berkeley County Fire Association Chairman Paul D. Burroughs Jr Request.

- 12) Consideration of Bedington Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief David W. Brining Request

Commissioner Gunnoe addressed those in attendance giving an overview of the 3 requests from the Berkeley County Council. 1) Validation that Berkeley Fire is a recognized Fire Department. 2) Assignment of dual response area to include the entire county (excluding Martinsburg). 3) The assignment of a FDID number. He also updated the Commissioners with the latest email he had received from Berkeley County Council rescinding the letter they had sent to the local VFDs ending the original MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding).

Andrew P Blake (Deputy Legal Director, Berkeley County Council) addressed the Commission with confirmation the letter ending the MOUs had been rescinded.

Chief Brining (Bedington VFD Fire Chief), Mike Nichols (Deputy Chief of Hedgesville VFD and several Commissioners voiced concerns about staffing being resumed.

*Commissioner White made a motion to conditionally approve Berkeley County Fire Unit to be Berkeley Fire, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. Upon discussion:*

*Commissioner Eastham made a motion to go into executive session at 11:15am, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

*Commissioner Eastham made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:50pm, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

*Commissioner White made a motion to withdraw his motion, and Commissioner Eastham agreed to withdraw his second, without objection the motion was rescinded.*

*Commissioner White made a motion to conditionally approve the recognition of Berkeley County Fire Unit as Berkeley Fire once the new MOUs are in place with the local VFDs and approved by the Commission, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.*

*Commissioner White made a motion to grant conditional approval for Berkeley County Fire Unit to have a dual response area with all local VFDs once the new MOUs are in place with the local VFDs and approved by the Commission, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.*

*Commissioner White made a motion to task the Fire Marshal's office investigate if there is any reason the Fire Marshal can't issue an FDID number to the Berkeley County Fire Unit and to do so if allowable once the new MOUs are in place with the local VFDs and approved by the Commission, seconded by Commissioner Hess. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.*

*Commissioner White made a motion to provide two Fire Commissioners at the table during the MOU discussions between Berkeley County Fire Unit (Berkeley County Council) and Local VFDs, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.*

**Commissioner Gunnoe addressed all in attendance reminding them that any new MOU or cancellation of the old MOU will have to go through the Fire Commission.**

**Recruitment & Retention-** Networking with Fire Departments and Sharing Successful Ideas Update

Deputy Sharp updated the Commissioners on the ideas we have received. He recommended that we add that to our website as a bullet point with a link to share that information.

**Speaker-** Andrew P. Blake, Esq., Deputy Legal Director, Berkeley County Council - No additional speaking.

**Correspondence-** None

**Good of the Order**

**Time and Place of Next Meeting(s)-** Committee Meetings Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and Fire Commission Meeting Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ the Hilton Garden Inn, 150 Suncrest Towne Centre Drive, Morgantown WV 26505.

**ADJOURN:**

*Commissioner Mongold made a motion to adjourn at 11:55AM, second by Commissioner White, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.*

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